

SOL NATION

FOR THE LAND, THE AIR, THE WATER AND THE PEOPLE



Impact Report 2024

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**FOR THE LAND,
THE WATER,
THE AIR,
AND THE
PEOPLE**

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Mission & Vision

Mission

- Identify and close the green gap between the desire of communities of color to live in regenerative and sustainable communities, and their access to power, infrastructure, resources, and education.
- Transform the material conditions of Black, Indigenous and communities of color and facilitate a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable and clean energy.
- Change the narrative around environmental justice, demonstrating that climate crises are about people and racism, not just the environment.



Vision

Sol Nation's vision is to create self-lead BIPOC communities who prioritizes Black issues, establishes climate justice solutions, and provides the next generation with access to knowledge and resources, including school curricula with environmental justice standards.

RESILIENCE

/re'zīlēəns/ noun

1. the capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.
“the remarkable resilience of so many institutions”
2. the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity

Through resilience and determination, our organization has continued to make a meaningful impact in the community, even in the face of challenges. Despite losing members, operating with a small team, and navigating funding setbacks, we remained committed to our mission. We pushed forward, organizing impactful events, fostering community engagement, and inspiring others to join the environmental justice movement. Our ability to adapt and persist proves that real change isn't just about resources—it's about dedication, passion, and an unwavering belief in a healthier, more just future for all.

This past year, that resilience was on full display. Through events like UNEARTHED, we celebrated Black art and business, proving that environmental justice is deeply connected to culture and creativity. Our community clean-up efforts brought people together to reclaim and restore shared spaces, showing that when we care for our environment, we care for each other. These moments remind us that progress is possible, even in tough times, and that every step forward strengthens our collective movement.

Our SOLUTIONS



At Sol Nation, we work in communities that are directly impacted by environmental and social injustices. What we have found working alongside community members is that they want to find ways to live in healthy, vibrant communities that support a healthy environment. When community members are given some relief and resources they are able to create their own pathways to solutions. So, we don't say we have programs but facilitate solutions to some of society's most destructive climate justice ills.



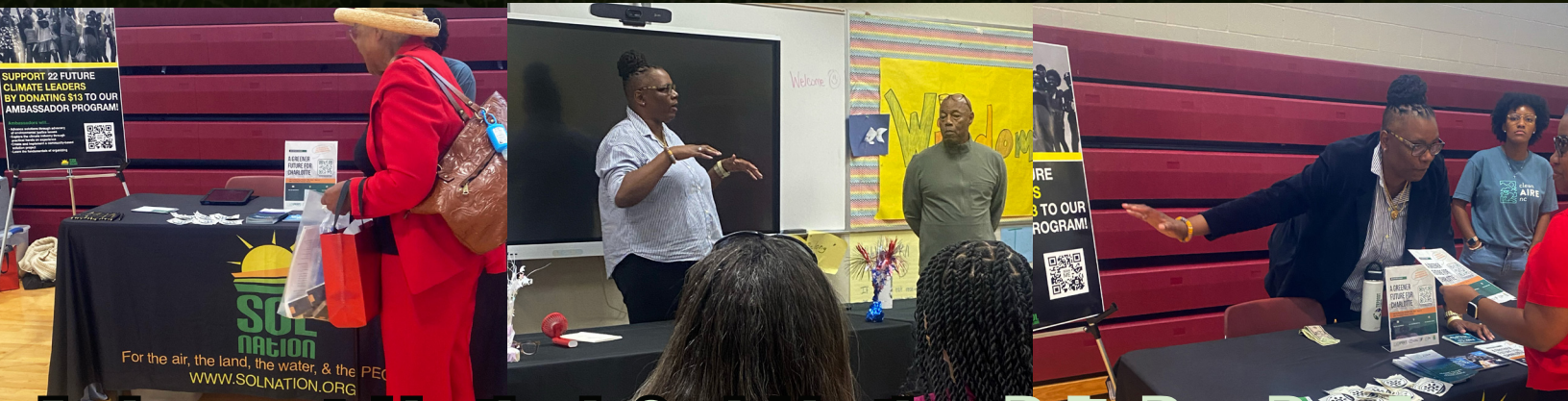
Environmental Justice Is...

Environmental Justice is... connects environmental justice and social justice issues to illustrate that for every social justice issue there is an environmental justice component to it. The campaign allows for interaction with each topic through storytelling, hands-on opportunities, visuals, and practical solutions that communities can implement. The Environmental Justice Is... campaign gives us a rallying point to move forward in, providing greater access to education, resources, infrastructure, power, and liberation with the communities that we serve.



Environmental Justice Is Black Women's Health - Mind & Heart

Hosted by Ebenezer Baptist Church, Environmental Justice is Black Women's Health – Mind & Heart was designed to empower Black women to prioritize their well-being and embrace a healthier, more balanced lifestyle. The event featured nourishing food, mindful movement activities, local vendors, and insightful discussions with health professionals, all centered on mental and heart health in Black women.



Environmental Justice is Social Justice - Delta Days Panel

“Delta Days in the City” is a legislative conference focused on increasing awareness and engagement in statewide and local issues, engaging elected officials, and most importantly helping to execute solutions for the most pressing issues facing our community. Tiffany Fant, our Executive Director, was invited to speak to share her knowledge on the connection of environmental justice and social justice and it's impact on Historical Black communities.





Environmental Justice is Creative Culture - **UNEARTHED**

Part of our Environmental Justice is Creative Culture campaign, UNEARTHED was designed to honor Black art and Black-owned businesses within our communities. The event began with an Opening Reception featuring local Black artist Bunny Gregory and our host, Tiffany Fant. Together, they explored the significance of Black artistic expression in the fight against environmental injustice and highlighted the vibrant culture Black artists have nurtured for decades, often in the face of cultural neglect.



The UNEARTHED Opening Reception wasn't just about art—it was a celebration of community. The event featured amazing music, delicious food, and an overall atmosphere of joy and connection. Attendees enjoyed good vibes all around, with opportunities to network, share experiences, and make meaningful connections with others in the community. It was a space where people could come together, celebrate, and build relationships that will continue to strengthen our collective efforts for change.



The main event, UNEARTHED EJ Community Festival brought together for an exciting time featuring karaoke, gardening, local vendors, a stunning art exhibition, and even a fun-filled kids' corner complete with a bounce house, pumpkin painting, and games! In the spirit of unity and care, we also rallied together to support Hurricane Helene victims in northeastern NC, receiving generous in-kind donations. We're so grateful for everyone who joined us to make this day unforgettable!





SOL TECH Academy

Sol Tech Academy introduces people of all ages from historically marginalized communities to see technology through a climate justice lens. Specifically, we prioritize equipping young people with training, access to different coding languages, connecting technology's role in their future career choice, and experiential opportunities to survey the environmental quality of their communities. Participants are encouraged to own their own climate tech solutions relevant to what they want to see around them daily, in their communities, and in their future.



Green Gap Initiative

Sol Nation's definition of Green Gap is the difference between Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities' desire to build and live in sustainable, regenerative communities and their access to the resources, power, education, and infrastructure to achieve those communities. Closing the green gap is the framework that we are using for increasing socio-economic impact. We are currently developing our approach to research that will serve as the foundation of analysis for the historical, current, and future state of climate justice in North Carolina. This body of work is a necessary tool for marginalized communities to advocate for themselves. We intend to advance the conversation about impacted communities to data backed evidence that uses indicators of sustainable, regenerative communities.



Rapid Response to Hurricane Helene

Hurricane Helene caused devastating damage to the northwestern Carolina area, with historic flooding and widespread destruction. Homes were flooded, cars were stranded across town, and many roads became impassable. Starting with the partnership of Cornerstone Summit Church, SOL Nation is committed help set up and supply resources for aid to not only Boone and Asheville but anyone in NC who has been effected by this catastrophic event.



Community Clean Up & Canvass - Black Climate Week

Community Clean Up & Canvas services Charlotte, NC's Historic Westend to engage and educate the community on neighborhood care. Along with collecting litter, we are collaborating with different community leaders to clear debris from water sources, cemeteries, and vacant properties, while also educating residents on methods to prevent unwanted waste by reaching out to the city and other resources. Sol Nation will serve as a liaison for waste removal and addressing any environmental concerns that residents may encounter.



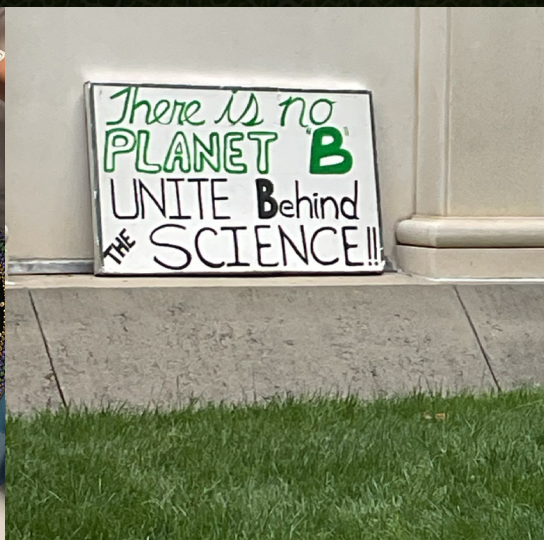


Earth Day 2024

Sol Nation Inc and CleanAIRE NC joined together for the largest Earth Day event in Charlotte, NC at the Charlotte Museum of History. The annual Earth Day celebration brought together community members to celebrate our environment, engage families with fun educational activities, foster lifelong connections with nature, and connect attendees with environmentally conscious organizations and businesses from the Charlotte area.



Attendees were able to travel through the four (4) knowledge stations to complete exciting engagement activities hosted by local nonprofit organizations and businesses. After each activity, travelers will receive a stamp to complete their Earth Passport. Even after the event is over, they can use the passport to continue their environmental engagement in their daily lives.



Collabs

As a grassroots organization, we rely on partnerships to enhance our capabilities and resources.



West Charlotte Calming Rooms

Imagine a space where students can step away from the chaos, process their emotions, and find peace—without fear of judgment. For many high schoolers, this could make all the difference in their studies and social lives. Sol Nation has partnered with the faculty and staff of West Charlotte High School to give students a chance to become emotionally independent and lessen the amount of students that are sent to the office and/or ISS.

Green Prints

Green Prints is an initiative aimed at addressing environmental injustices and climate equity issues in six underfunded corridors of Charlotte, NC. With the collaboration of the City of Charlotte, Clean AIRE NC and the Knight Foundation, the objective is to cultivate vibrant communities for residents, enhance overall equity, and empower community members to develop their own solutions through the Green Print documents tailored to address the specific injustices in each corridor.



Looking Ahead 2025

Ambassadors 2025 Cohort

As a part of our SOL Tech Academy, the Sol Nation Ambassador Program is designed to engage individuals who have a desire to reduce the Green Gap, advocate for climate justice issues and support and amplify Sol Nations mission, vision and various programs. Applications open in April and the program will be begin in the summer of 2025.

Sol Stories - Environmental Justice is Food Sovereignty

SOL Nation will be creating another episode for Food Sovereignty, highlighting how the lack of access to quality foods in Black and Brown neighborhoods has profound implications for health and well-being, including: chronic diseases, mental health, child development, immune function and community resilience. Through the video, we aim to highlight these health implications while advocating for equitable access to fresh, nutritious, and affordable foods as a pathway to thriving communities.

Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities

Launched in March 2024, Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities is a three-year initiative to turbocharge 25 U.S. cities' efforts to leverage historic levels of federal funding to proactively build low-carbon, resilient, and economically thriving communities. Potential projects in the 25 cities include developing affordable energy-efficient housing, increasing access to clean energy, investing in electric vehicles and infrastructure, and more. In the later part of 2024, SOL Nation has joined the table at Bloomberg representing Charlotte,NC. As new a new innovation team for Bloomberg, starting in 2025, we plan to help bolster city capacity in driving progress on climate mitigation and promoting equitable outcomes.

The Green Shifting Community Project - Hoskins Mills

SOL Nation, in partnership with Clean AIRE NC and the City of Charlotte, is taking action to create healthier, more sustainable communities. Starting with the Hoskins Mills neighborhood, this initiative focuses on upgrading homes for better energy efficiency, installing air monitoring systems to track pollution, and enhancing local ecosystems with BAT boxes and native plants. These efforts aim to reduce energy costs, improve air quality, and support biodiversity, demonstrating a commitment to environmental justice and long-term community resilience.

West Charlotte Calming Rooms

Sol Nation has partnered with the faculty and staff of West Charlotte High School to give students a chance to become emotionally independent and lessen the amount of students that are sent to the office and/or ISS. Looking to implement in the spring of 2025.



“I believe in destiny. But I also believe that you can’t just sit back and let destiny happen.”

- Spike Lee



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